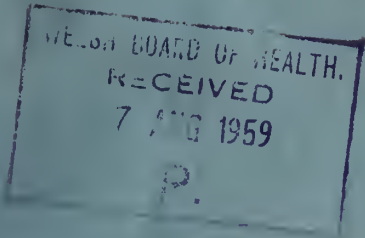


m/4



**ABERYSTWYTH
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Public Health Department

**Annual Report
1958**

ABERYSTWYTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mayors of Aberystwyth

Alderman C.J.Williams.

Alderman J.John.

Committees dealing with Health matters

	<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Members</u>
(1)	Health & Housing Committee,	Councillor J.L.Thomas,	All Members of the Council.
(2)	Housing Sub-Committee,	Councillor J.L.Thomas,	Fourteen Members.
(3)	Public Works Committee,	Alderman J.John,	All Members of the Council.

Public Health Officers of the Authority

Medical Officer of Health,	..	Dulyn Thomas, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector, Housing Inspector, Inspector of Meat and other Foods,	..	O.R.N.Hoskins, M.R.S.H.
Additional Public Health Inspector, Housing Inspector, Inspector of Meat and other Foods,	..	D.M.Lewis, M.R.S.H.

Your Worship the Mayor, the Chairman of the Health and Housing Committee,
Aldermen and Members of the Borough Council.

PREFACE

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Health Department for the year ended 31st December, 1958.

The number of live births registered during the year was one hundred. This figure shows a decrease of seventeen on the figure for the previous year and a decrease of forty-three on the 1956 figure. Only one infant died under the age of twelve months. No mother died as a result of childbirth.

One hundred and fifty-five deaths were registered during the year. Fifty-nine persons died of heart disease, thirty-two from vascular lesions of the nervous system (stroke) and twenty-seven from cancer in its various forms. The remaining deaths were due to a variety of causes.

This year, in addition to the vital statistics for the Borough of Aberystwyth, comparative figures are given (where applicable) for Cardiganshire and also for England and Wales.

In the field of infectious diseases, apart from an outbreak of measles involving forty-five children, there were only two cases of pneumonia and one case of meningococcal meningitis. One notes once again the complete absence of any notification of poliomyelitis, dysentery and food poisoning.

Five cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. There were no deaths from this disease.

A more detailed account of the work of the Health Department will be found in the ensuing pages, which include a section prepared by the Chief Public Health Inspector.

No new houses or flats were built by the Council during the year. As there are still a large number of families on the Council's Housing List it is to be hoped that we shall be able to resume our building programme in the near future.

I should like to endorse the remarks of the Public Health Inspector regarding the question of sewage disposal in Antaron Avenue and Pen-yr-anchor. The need for connecting these two areas to the Borough's main sewerage scheme is rather urgent. I sincerely hope that we shall be able to move ahead at speed with the sewage disposal scheme outlined by Messrs Waters and Partners in 1957.

Much work has been done by the Department in trying to raise the standard of hygiene in our food premises. There is still room for improvement before all food premises come up to the standard required under the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

I wish to thank you, Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Members of the Council for your continued interest in the work of the Health Department.

SUMMARY OF GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	1,141.
Population (Census 1951)	..	..	..	..	..	9,315.
Population (Registrar General's Mid-Year 1958)	..	..	..	..	..	10,300.
Rateable Value at 1st April 1958	..	..	..	..	..	£171,245.
Rateable Value at 1st April 1959	..	..	..	..	..	£178,848.
Sum represented by a penny rate in 1958/59	..	..	..	..	..	£584.
Estimated sum to be obtained by a penny rate 1959/60	..	..	..	..	..	£629.

Number of various premises at 1st April 1959

Domestic.

Houses and Flats (other than Agricultural Dwelling houses)	..	..	..	..	2,692.
Agricultural Dwelling houses	..	..	..	..	5.

Commercial.

Shops with Private Dwelling Accommodation	..	..	..	..	142.
Shops (including Banks in shopping areas) and Cafes..	..	..	..	..	146.
Offices (including Banks in office areas)	..	..	..	..	51.
Hotels and Boarding Houses	..	..	..	..	31.
Holiday Camps and Caravan Fields	..	..	..	..	3.
Warehouses, Stores and Workshops (Non-Industrial)	..	..	..	..	108.
Garages (Commercial) Petrol Filling Stations and Car Parks	..	..	..	..	33.
Lock-up Garages	..	..	..	..	166.
Markets	..	..	..	..	2.

On-Licensed Premises.

Public Houses	..	..	..	..	26.
Restaurants	..	..	..	..	1.

Entertainment and Recreational.

Cinemas	..	..	..	..	2.
Theatres and Music Halls	..	..	..	..	1.
Sports and Recreation Grounds, Golf Courses..	..	..	..	..	7.
Social Clubs, Community Centres and Public Halls	..	..	..	..	17.
Other places of entertainment and recreation	..	..	..	..	2.

Public Utility.

Water, Gas, Electricity, etc.,	5.
--------------------------------	----	----	----	----	----

Educational and Cultural.

Libraries, Museums, etc,	..	..	..	..	2.
Schools and Colleges, etc,	..	..	..	..	8.
University Colleges	..	..	..	..	20.

Miscellaneous.


Crown Property	..	..	..	..	26.
Other Hospitals, Clinics, etc,	..	..	..	..	2.
Cemeteries	..	..	..	..	1.
Town Halls and Municipal Offices	..	..	..	..	5.
Road Transport - Depot and Yards	..	..	..	..	1.
Properties not classified	..	..	..	..	15.

Industrial.

Factories and Workshops	17.
-------------------------	----	----	----	----	-----

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

				<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Number of registered live births	..	..	Leg:	94	50	44
			Illeg:	6	5	1
Number of registered still births	..	..	Leg:	1	-	1
			Illeg:	-	-	-
Number of deaths of infants under 1 year	..		Leg:	1	-	1
			Illeg:	-	-	-
Number of deaths of infants under 4 weeks	..		Leg:	1	-	1
			Illeg:	-	-	-
Number of deaths of women ascribed to childbirth				-	-	-
Number of registered deaths	..	..	..	155	76	79
Areal comparability factor for births	..	..		1.08.		
Areal comparability factor for deaths	..	..		0.83.		



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28823904>

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

With comparative figures for Cardiganshire and England and Wales where applicable.

	Aberystwyth Borough	Cardiganshire	England & Wales
No. of live births - male	55	-	-
No. of live births - female	45	-	-
Total number of live births	100	683	738,323
Live birth rate per 1000 population	9.7	12.9	16.4
No. of still-births	1	-	-
Still-birth rate per 1000 live and still births	9.9	17.3	21.6
Infant deaths (under 1 year)	1	-	-
Infant mortality rate per 1000 live births - total	10	23.24	22.5
Infant mortality rate per 1000 live births - legitimate	10.6	21.5	-
Infant mortality rate per 1000 live births - illegitimate	0	-	-
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1000 live births -(first 4 weeks)	10	19.0	34.9
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	6.0	4.7	-
Maternal deaths including abortion	0	1	-
Maternal mortality rate per 1000 live and still births	0	1.4	-
Total number of deaths	155	867	526,729
Death rate per 1000 population	15.0	16.4	11.7

Area comparability factor for births 1.08

Area comparability factor for deaths 0.83

CAUSES OF DEATH

Registrar General's

<u>Code Number</u>	<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Number of deaths</u>		
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
2	Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3	Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4	Diphtheria	-	-	-
5	Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6	Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7	Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8	Measles	-	-	-
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	4	7
11	Malignant neoplasm lung, bronchus	4	1	5
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3	3
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
14	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	6	5	11
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1
16	Diabetes	-	-	-
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	15	17	32
18	Coronary disease, angina	15	15	30
19	Hypertension with heart disease	2	1	3
20	Other heart disease	11	15	26
21	Other circulatory disease	5	4	9
22	Influenza	-	1	1
23	Pneumonia	2	4	6
24	Bronchitis	3	1	4
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31	Congenital malformations	-	-	-
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	5	9
33	Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
34	All other accidents	-	1	1
35	Suicide	1	-	1
36	Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
Total		76	79	155

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following is a list of the notifications of infectious disease, other than tuberculosis, received during the year.

Cholera	..	..	..	..	Nil
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	Nil
Dysentery (amoebic and bacillary)	..		..	..	Nil
Encephalitis	..	..	..	..	Nil
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	Nil
Food poisoning	..	..	..	..	Nil
Malaria	..	..	..	..	Nil
Measles	..	..	..	..	45
Meningococcal meningitis	..		..	..	1
Ophthalmia neonatorum	..		..	..	Nil
Paratyphoid fever	..		..	..	Nil
Plague	..	..	..	..	Nil
Pneumonia (acute primary and acute influenzal)					2
Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	..		..	..	Nil
Relapsing fever..	..		..	..	Nil
Scarlet fever	..	..	..	..	Nil
Smallpox	..	..	..	..	Nil
Typhoid fever	..	..	..	..	Nil
Typhus fever	..	..	..	..	Nil
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS

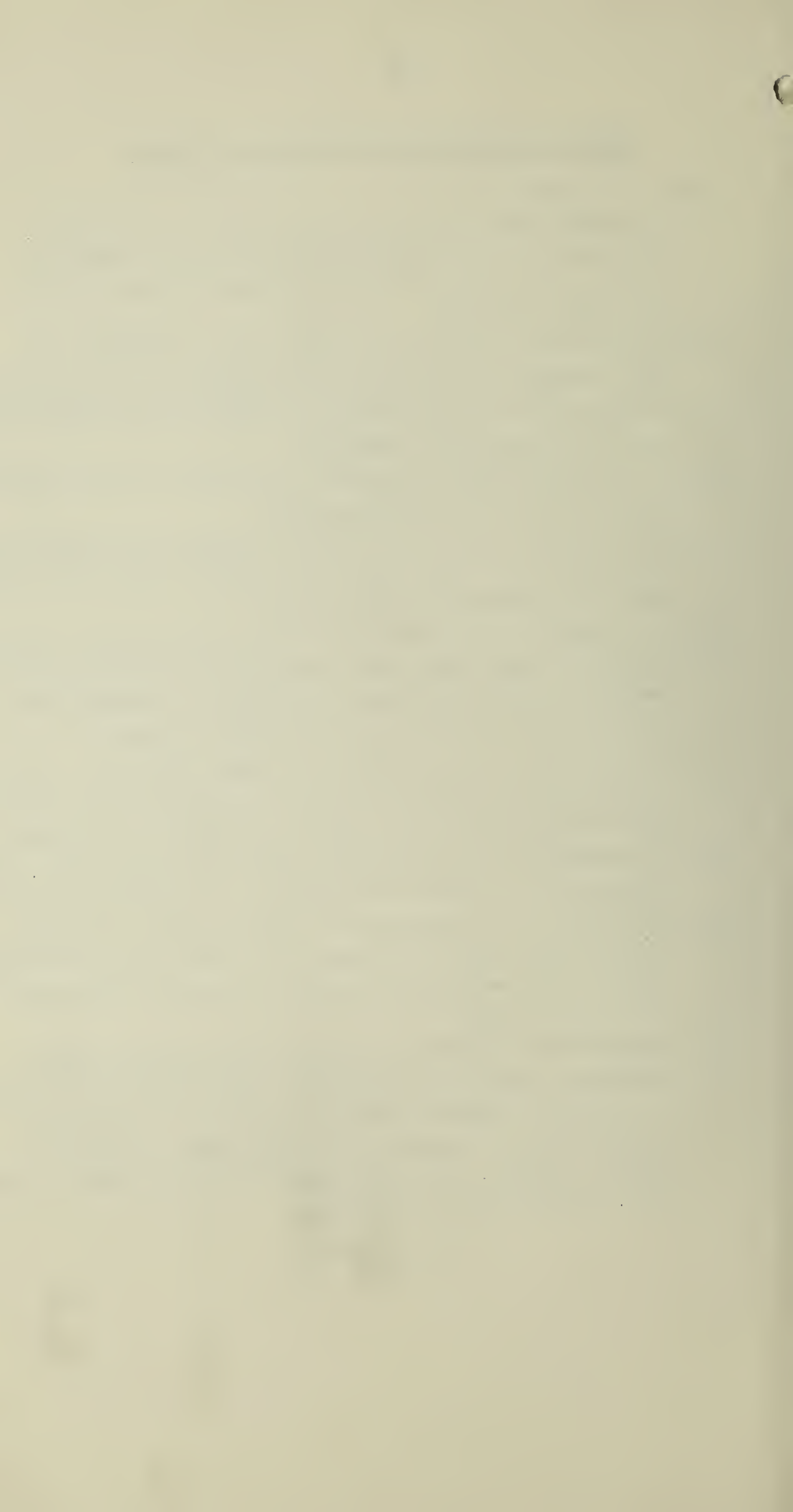
The following table shows the sex and age distribution of the new cases notified during the year.

AGE GROUP	RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 - 1	-	-	-	-
1 - 2	-	-	-	-
2 - 4	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	-	-	-	-
10 - 14	-	-	-	-
15 - 19	-	-	-	-
20 - 24	-	-	-	-
25 - 34	-	1	-	-
35 - 44	-	3	-	-
45 - 54	-	-	-	-
55 - 64	-	-	-	-
65 - 74	1	-	-	-
75 +	-	-	-	-
Totals :-	1	4	-	-

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

They are as follows :-

- (a) Ante-natal clinics are held by the consultant in obstetrics. The district midwife attends with the patient and consequently becomes fully conversant with all the medical aspects of the case prior to delivery.
- (b) Infant welfare clinics are held twice weekly at Swyddfa'r Sir and fortnightly at the Neuadd Goffa, Penparcau. A few Aberystwyth residents find it more convenient to attend the fortnightly clinic held at the Church Hall, Llanbadarn.
- (c) The domiciliary midwifery service is carried out by three district nurses who are also certified midwives.
- (d) The Borough is covered by two Health Visitors, one of whom devotes her entire time to the Borough area, whilst the other also covers part of the surrounding Rural District.
- (e) Home nursing is in the hands of the above three district nurses.
- (f) Vaccination against smallpox is carried out by the person's own doctor, but immunisation against diphtheria is performed partly by the former and partly by the local health authority.
B.C.G. immunisation is carried out on school children of a selected age group and upon those who have been in intimate contact with a case of tuberculosis and who display susceptibility to the disease.
- (g) The headquarters of the ambulance service are at Aberystwyth. Three ambulances and a county relief ambulance are stationed in the town.
- (h) Arrangements for the prevention of illness consist of periodic talks and advice given by the staff of the local health authority. Care and after care are in the hands of the health visitors and the district nurses.
- (i) Domestic help is provided by suitable persons engaged locally.
- (j) Aberystwyth Hospital is the principal general hospital in the area of the Mid-Wales Hospital Management Committee. The infectious diseases' unit is situated a short distance from the town at Tanybwllch Hospital. The mental hospital normally serving the area is St. David's Hospital, Carmarthen.



SECTION 47 OF THE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

This Section gives the local authority power, on the Certificate of the Medical Officer of Health, to apply to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for the removal of persons unable to devote to themselves and not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

Persons dealt with under this Section must either (a) be suffering from grave chronic disease or (b) be aged, infirm or physically handicapped and living in insanitary conditions.

Action was taken under this Act in respect of two persons.

The one was an elderly man living alone and suffering from cancer. He flatly refused to enter hospital on his doctor's advice. Consequently action was taken as an emergency measure.

The other was an elderly lady in very poor health who was not receiving adequate care and attention. She was admitted to Tan-y-bwlch Hospital where she died of pneumonia.

Indy Thomas

Medical Officer of Health.

Swyddfa'r Sir,
(Council Offices)
Aberystwyth.

Tel: Aberystwyth 7581-9.



REPORT OF CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To The Mayor, Chairman of the Health and Housing Committee,
Aldermen, and Members of the Aberystwyth Borough Council.

Gentlemen,

I submit my section of the Annual Report for your consideration.

The continued support and interest of the Council is appreciated in the many aspects of the work for which I am responsible.

The continued increase in meat production and the necessary inspection work have made the inadequacy of the present Abattoir even more obvious. Food Hygiene progress is not as rapid as it should be and there is public and trade apathy to be overcome, but where improvements have been secured the result has been generally appreciated.

The lack of house building, both private and by the Local Authority, has prevented any big improvement in the local conditions, but it does seem obvious that better use could be made of existing accommodation which is often under occupied.

None of the work could have been satisfactorily carried out without the support of my colleagues, and I am happy to record my appreciation.

STAFF

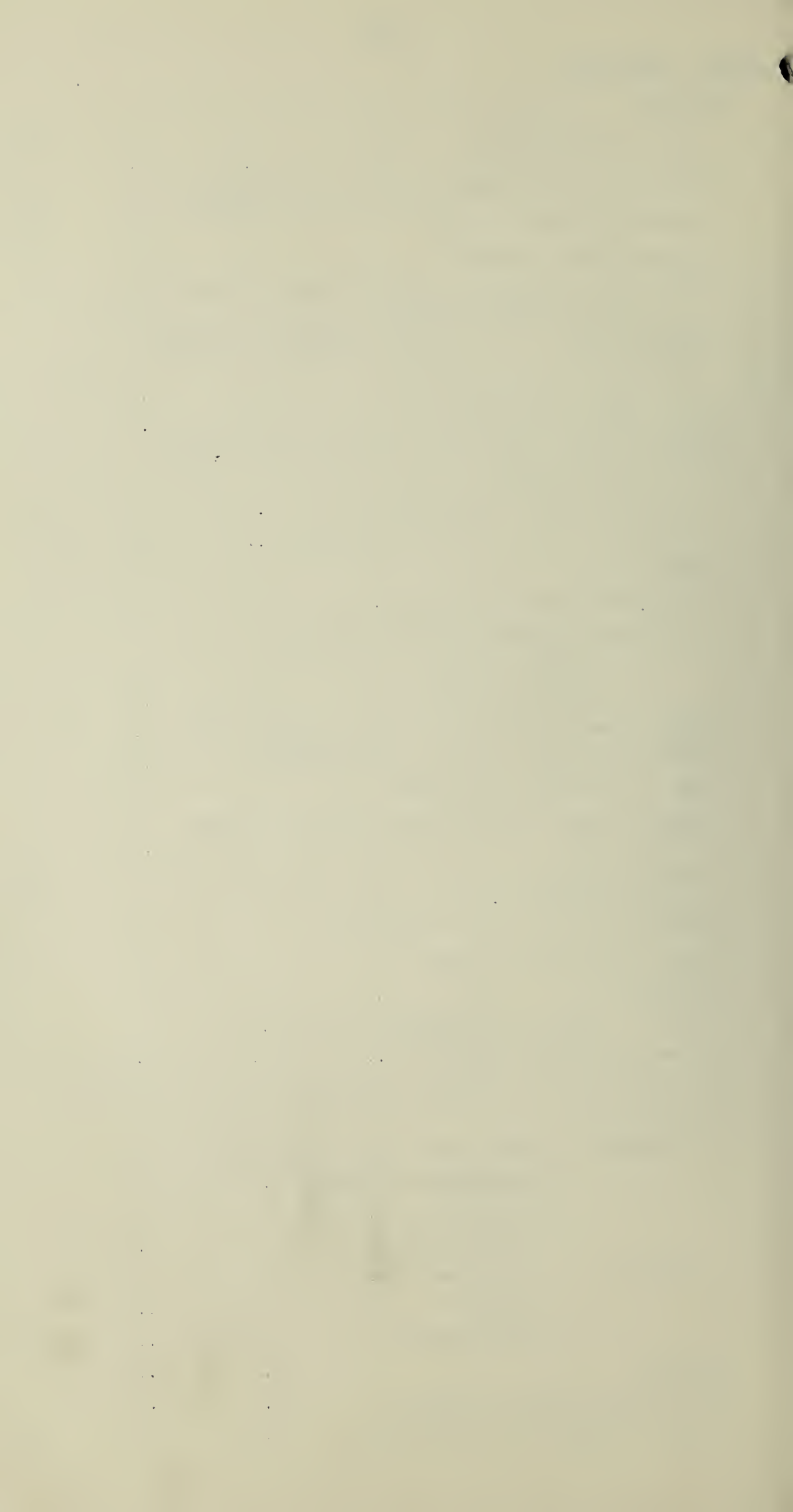
The staff of the Department consists of :-

Chief Public Health Inspector,	..	O.R.N.Hoskins, M.R.S.H.
Additional Public Health Inspector,	..	D.M.Lewis, M.R.S.H.
Clerical Officer,	..	W.D.James.
Rodent Operator,	..	C.Y.Jones.
Abattoir Superintendent,	..	G.Ellis.

GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Enforcement

Complaints received	100
Complaints not justified	3
Matters referred to other Departments for abatement ..	133
Preliminary Notices served	44
Informal Notices complied	36
Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation.. .. .	9
Number of formal notices served requiring the execution of works :-	
(a) Under Public Health Act	7
(b) Under Housing Act	-
Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :-	
(a) Under Public Health Act	11
(b) Under Sec: 9 and 16 of Housing Act	-
Number of :-	
(a) Demolition Orders made	-
(b) Closing Orders becoming effective :-	
(i) whole building	1
(ii) part building	1
Number of houses demolished, not in Clearance Areas ..	1
Number of dwellings visited re overcrowding.. .. .	5
Number of dwellings overcrowded	2
Number of houses inspected (Public Health Act and Housing Act)	241
Number of houses re-inspected (Public Health Act and Housing Act)	286
Premises other than houses inspected	4
Visits for infectious disease	22
Disinfections	11
Owners or Contractors interviewed	67
Factory Act Notices served	1
Factory Act Notices complied	1
Factories :-	
Non-power :- Bakehouses	2
Dressmakers and Milliners	2
Laundries	2
Miscellaneous	4
Power :- Bakehouses	7
Laundries	1
Miscellaneous	23
Offices	1
Work Places, other than Offices	2
Number of Council houses inspected	48



Other classifications

Tents, Vans, Sheds or similar structures	..	..	11
Cinemas and Amusement Places	..	..	3
Public Houses and Licensed Premises	..	..	79
Water supply and sampling visits..	..	..	55
Refuse Tips	..	..	4
Accumulations	..	..	25
Sewers	..	..	16
Drains and Drainage	..	..	86
Water courses	..	..	3
Public conveniences	..	..	10
Cesspools	..	..	45
Flooding	..	..	14
Swine, other animals and birds	..	..	3
Infestations of vermin	..	..	19
Slaughterhouse visits..	..	..	671
Visits not classified..	..	..	102

Food Premises

Milk Regulations, Dairies, Milkshops & Purveyors visits.			23
Ice-cream premises and vehicles (Inspection & sampling).			30
Restaurants and food preparing premises	..	..	9
Butchers	..	..	6
Greengrocers and Fishmongers	..	..	10
Railway depots re food	..	..	7
Food vehicles	..	..	3
General inspections and condemned food	..	..	90

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

Premises inspected and re-inspected	..	..	98
Notices served	..	..	21
Notices complied	..	..	1

Shops Act, 1950

Shops visits	4
--------------	----	----	---

Pests Act, 1949

Premises inspected	..	..	62
Notices served	..	..	1
Notices complied	..	..	1

Rent Act, 1957

Inspections arising	15
---------------------	----	----	----

Clean Air Act, 1956

Smoke observation visits	5
--------------------------	----	----	---

SUMMARY OF WORK EXECUTED

Premises

Dirty or verminous conditions remedied	5
Dampness remedied	13
Walls repaired	3
Outside plastering repaired	2
Inside plastering repaired	2
Roofs renewed or repaired	10
Chutes, downpipes or gutters renewed or repaired..	12
Window sashes or frames renewed or repaired ..	2
Yard paving relaid or repaired.. ..	3
Accumulations removed	3
Nuisances from animals or birds abated	1
Ash bins provided	1

Drainage

Drains tested, Water	8
Drains tested, Smoke	3
New drains constructed	15
Drains re-laid or repaired	5
Drains cleansed	10
Inspection or Intercepting Chambers provided ..	3
Soil pipes or Vent Shafts fixed or repaired ..	4
Sinks provided	1
Waste pipes provided or repaired	10
Gulleys provided	3

Water Closets

W.C.'s reconstructed or repaired	11
Flushing apparatus provided	4
Flushing apparatus repaired	1
Miscellaneous repairs	3

Factory Act, 1957

Sanitary accommodation found insufficient ..	3
Provision of W.C.'s	4

Licensed Premises

Wash sink provided	1
Hot water supply to sinks provided	2
Decoration and improvements in bars	1
Decoration and improvements in sanitary convenience	4

Moveable Dwellings, Public Health Act, 1936.

Licenses issued authorising land to be used ..	1
--	---

MEAT INSPECTION (ABATTOIR)

The table below indicates the work of ante and post-mortem examination carried out at the Abattoir. The increase in throughput of animals entering for slaughter has necessitated still more time on records, certificates and other work directly or indirectly resulting.

Aberystwyth Abattoir.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number of animals killed and inspected ..	1,160	1,091	25,975	4,308	32,534
<u>Percentage of Total.</u>					
<u>All diseases except T.B.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	25	27	126	14	16,582 lbs.
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	315	2	803	86	6,742 lbs.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. ..	29.31%	2.66%	3.58%	2.32%	
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	9	-	-	-	3,607 lbs.
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	19	-	-	2	461 lbs.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	2.36%	-	-	.046%	
<u>Total weight of meat condemned at Abattoir = 27,392 lbs.</u>					

From the above tables it will be noted that 32,534 animals appears to be the largest total to be slaughtered during the past decade. It represents in terms of meat the requirements of a population of 53,000 people. The largest increase being that of sheep and pigs, although there were substantial increases in the number of cattle.

For the purpose of meat inspection 671 visits were paid to the Abattoir and 1,062 hours spent in actual inspection, in addition to this was the inevitable administrative and recording time. All meat and offal is inspected before leaving the premises and where meat in transit enters the Abattoir inspection is carried out of consignments, but there are instances where incomplete loads of meat from other districts arrive in Aberystwyth, destined for further afield and are made up by locally purchased products, with the result that it is possible for uninspected meat to arrive from another district mixed with local meat and this is not satisfactory although at present beyond control.

In cases of difficulty specimens are submitted for examination to the Veterinary Investigation Laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, at Aberystwyth, and the willing co-operation of that

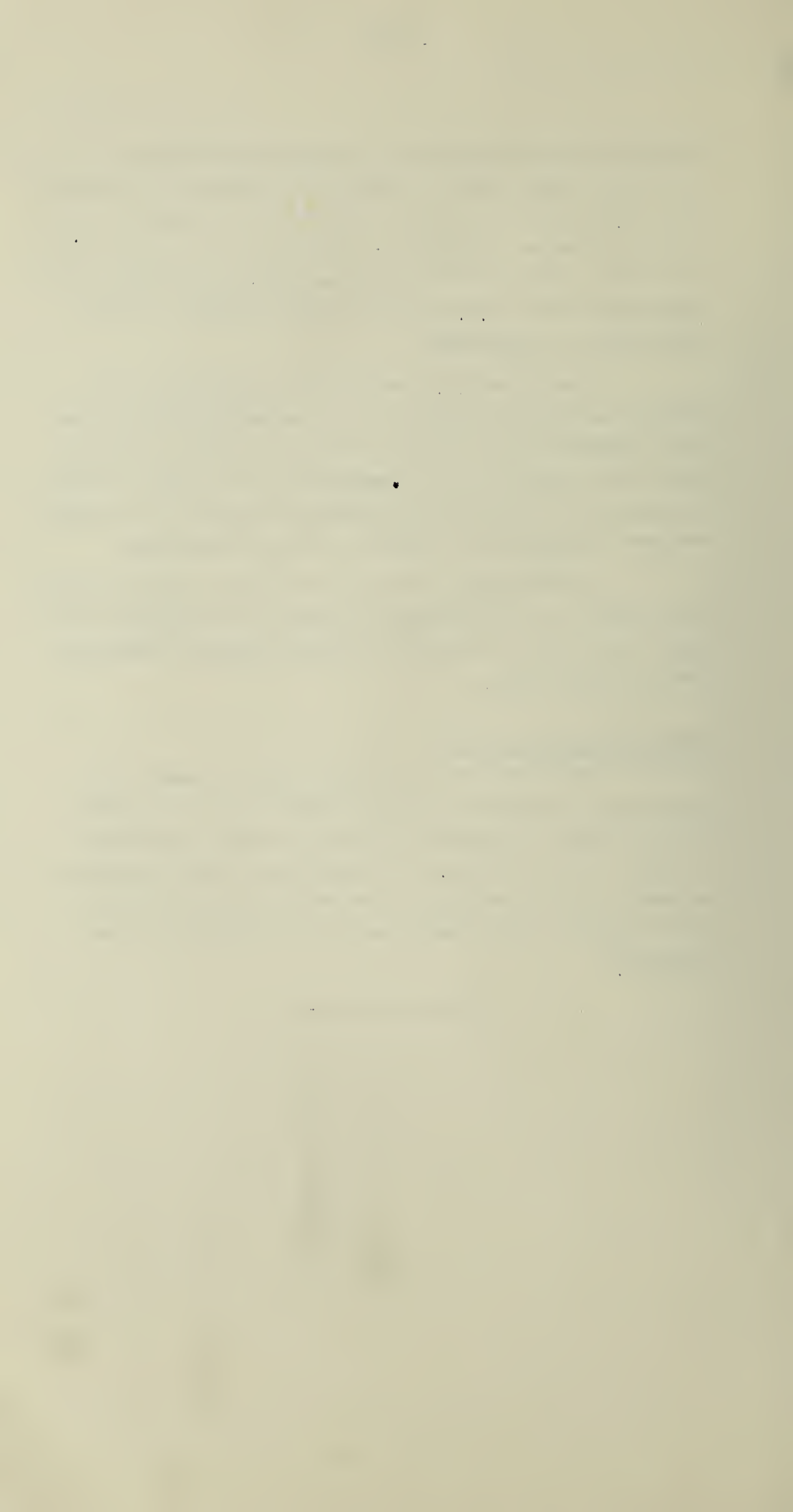
Department under Mr.L.Hughes is gratefully acknowledged. All the bovine animals under the Tuberculosis (Slaughter of Reactors) Order 1950, from this area are slaughtered in the Abattoir, and in this connection inspection is carried out in conjunction with the Animal Health Division of the same Ministry through their Veterinary Inspector Mr.R.Dudlyke, whose assistance I am more than pleased to acknowledge.

As mentioned, T.B. reactors are slaughtered at the Abattoir and nine were found to be so extensively affected that total condemnation was necessary, whilst in nineteen instances part of the carcass had to be condemned out of a total of fifty-one reactors. The detailed post-mortem inspection as to fitness for human consumption was carried out by your Inspectors.

On another page a block chart has been prepared showing the increase in the throughput of animals at the Abattoir in ten years, and it will be noted that this has increased over three times the 1948 figures.

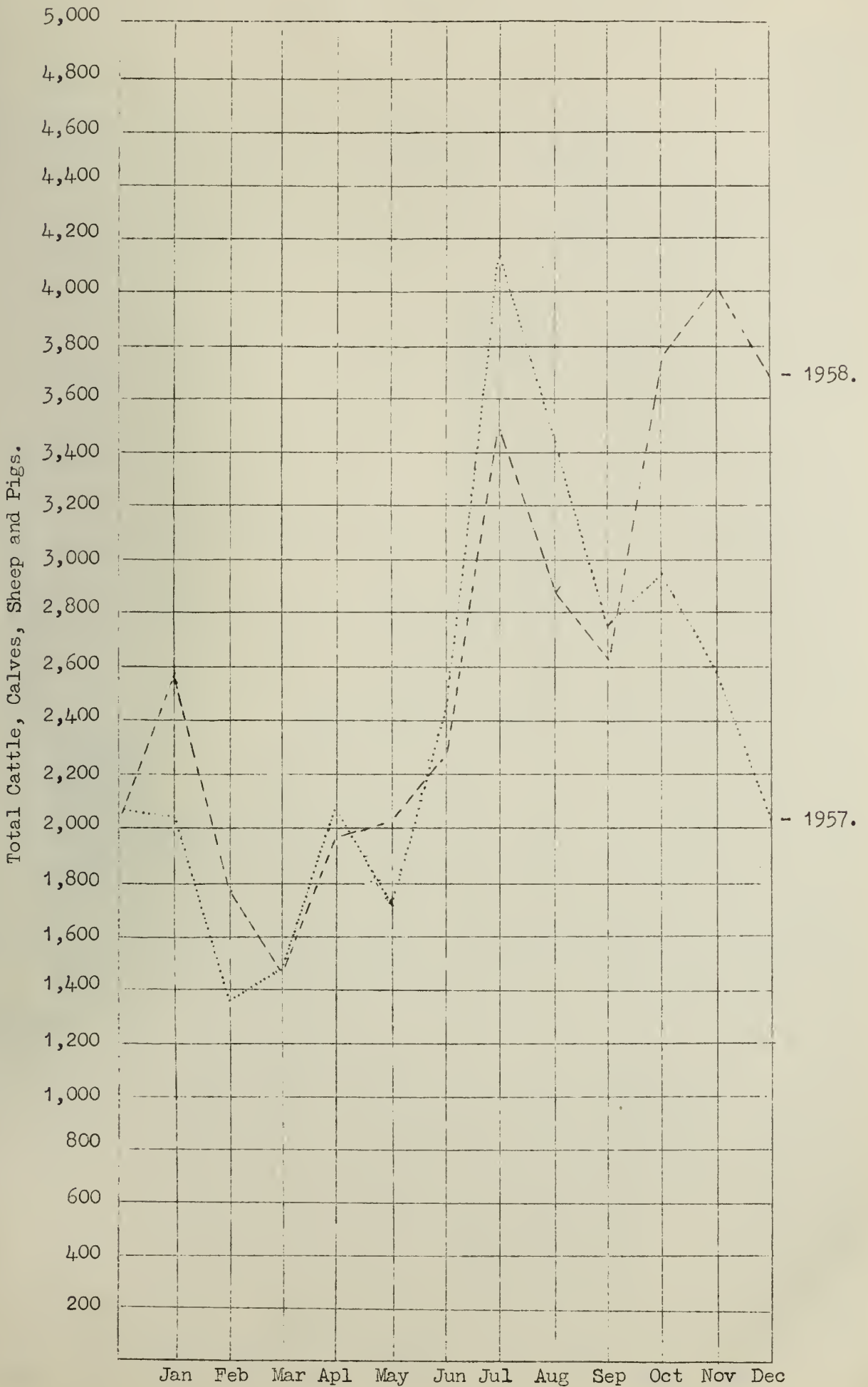
Slaughterhouses Act, 1958.

Steps have been put in hand to meet as many of the requirements as possible, but it is apparent that the premises are not likely to be capable of meeting the full requirements in their present condition. The Council have been considering proposals for the erection of a new Abattoir on the same site which will meet modern conditions, but the matter is not yet finalised.



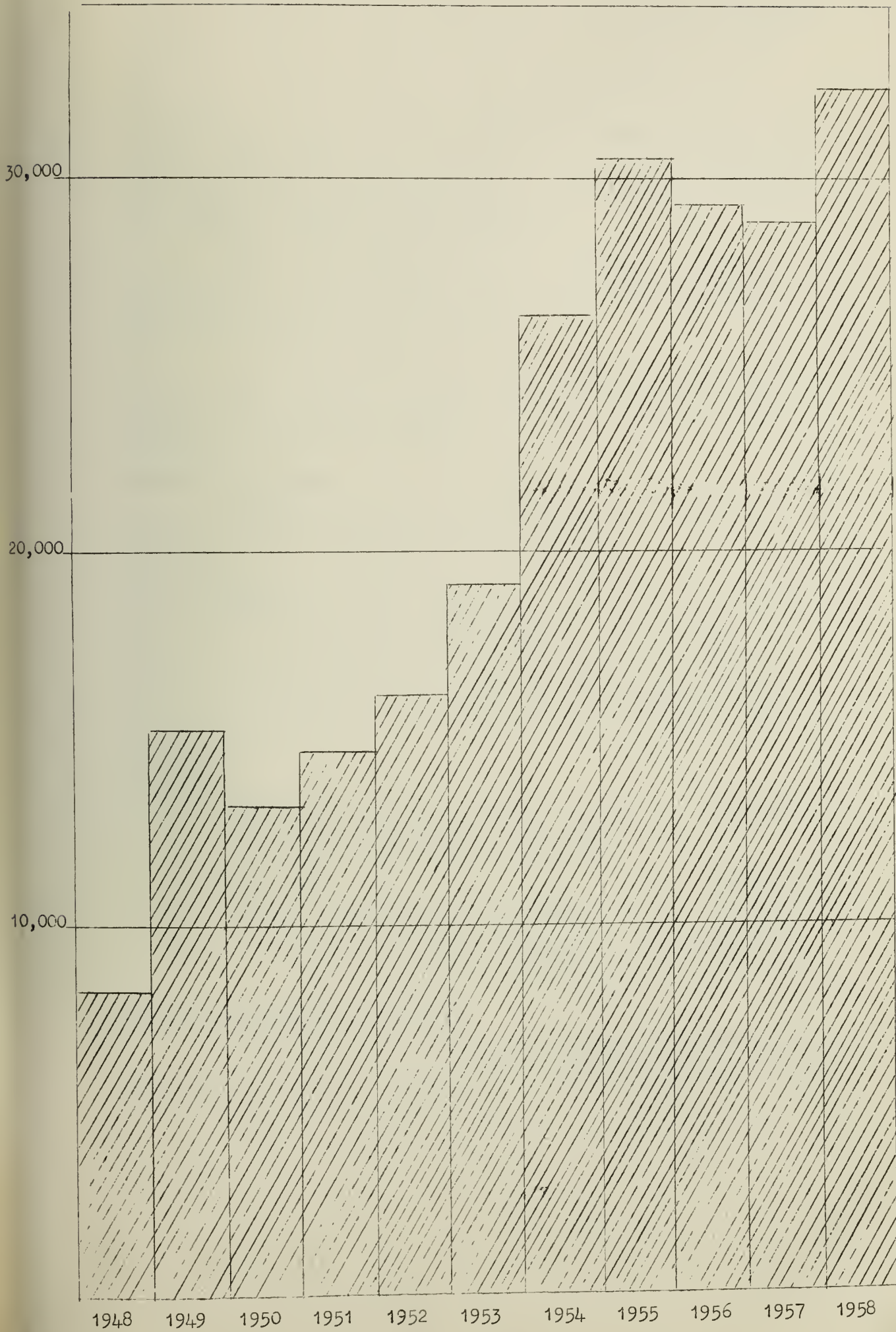
ABATTOIR

The graph below shows the fluctuation of slaughtering through-put for the year. An interesting feature was the rise in the autumn which was still maintained at the end of the year.



ABATTOIR

An illustration of the increase in throughput
of all types in past ten years



FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

Improvement is not rapid and it is continually necessary to draw attention to the Regulations, as the food shops do not appear to be making a general effort without pressure. Food hygiene has not become a popular idea, although the better presentation of goods involving certain food hygiene measures has helped. Behind many of the chromium and glass fronts however is frequently a most unsatisfactory rear and one cannot help wishing that customers could see these conditions.

Some of the smaller shops find difficulty in placing the necessary sinks, wash hand basins and hot water facilities, which constitute their major problems.

No requests for lectures were received during the year, although film strips are available and the Department is always willing to oblige when requested.

Registered premises.

Premises for the manufacture of sausages or pitted, pressed, pickled or preserved foods, total eight.

Food inspection.

Food premises were inspected and unsound food examined both at the premises and in the Department. As previously a considerable proportion of the condemned food was meat and this can be partly explained by the seasonal use of tinned meat in a seaside resort.

Condemnations.

Fresh and canned meat and meat products ..	1,239 lbs.
(Which included 46 large tins of ham)	
Fish, wet ..	228 lbs.
Canned and Miscellaneous condemned ..	974 lbs.
Total of foodstuffs condemned ..	<u>2,441 lbs.</u>

Disposal of condemned foodstuffs.

Condemned food is disposed by puncture and burial in the case of most canned goods, whilst dried foods and remaining canned goods are destroyed by incineration.

ICE-CREAM.

Seasonal sampling again resulted for the second year in 100% of the samples being Grade 1. The increase in the number of vendors selling pre-packed factory-made ice-cream which has been produced under ideal conditions has been maintained. It is significant that no new local manufacturer has applied for registration during the year and there are only four small local concerns still making ice-cream.

Registered distributors increased by seven and in each case they were for the sale of the factory made article. The opportunity is taken to insist upon the Food Hygiene Regulations being met before new premises are registered.

Sampling.

Twenty-one samples of ice-cream were taken, all being in Grade 1 as previously mentioned. Future sampling will concentrate on securing the best possible results from the local products.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS.

Three dairy farms produce milk and the responsibility for these farms is that of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Dairies (not being dairy farms) number eight and the registered Distributors, which include a number of shops selling bottled milk only, total twenty-three. Dealers operating under Licence or Supplementary Licence number eleven.

Milk supplies are largely "Pasteurised", a small proportion is farm bottled and two distributors sell milk bottled from a distant dairy and brought in by rail. Loose milk sold ungraded is now almost finished and the introduction of the Order dealing with the sale of bottled milk only, will happily bring this to an end.

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH.

In accordance with the International Sanitary Regulations, (World Health Regulations No.2,) to which Great Britain is a signatory power, twenty-seven international vaccination certificates of persons residing in Aberystwyth and proceeding to certain destinations overseas were authenticated in the prescribed manner.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 - 1948.

There are sixty-four factories registered in the Borough, fifty-nine being power operated and five non-power. Responsibility for the supervision of power operated factories is vested in the Ministry of Labour and National Service, except with the provision of sanitary accommodation. In the non-power factories the Local Authority is responsible for matters concerned with cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation, drainage of floors and sanitation.

Seven factories were discontinued and two new undertakings were added to the register. The Factory Inspector of the Ministry notifies the existence of building operations and works of engineering construction in order that the Council may enforce the requirements of Section 7, of the Act, relating to sanitary conveniences on those sites or places of work, and in this connection four communications were received. It should be noted that the provision of sanitary accommodation for persons employed on building or engineering works, or indeed on any project is essential.

WATER

Bacteriological sampling

One hundred and two drinking water samples were taken from different parts of the Borough. These samples were submitted to the Area Public Health Laboratory for analysis and any necessary action was taken with repeats where indicated. The results were as follows :-

Number of samples taken	=	102
"Excellent"	=	101
"Unsatisfactory"	=	1

Concern was again felt during the summer as the shortage of water necessitated appeals for economy which had to be exercised for a considerable amount of the summer season. No actual cut in supplies was made, but the situation had to be closely watched.

Bryn-y-môr water supply.

A public water supply to Penglais Fach, Plas Bryn-y-môr, Brynhyfryd Farm and the Golf Pavilion, became available during the year, and this area which has been the cause of considerable concern in the past is now assured of a safe supply.

HOUSING

No new dwellings were constructed during the year, but one private dwelling was erected. The housing demand shows a further reduction below the previous year and now totals 390 applications, 79% of these were in respect of couples or families with one child. It should be noted that 17% of the applications have two children and 4% have three or more.

There were sixty-one new applications and accommodation was initially required for one hundred and forty-nine persons named in these applications. New lettings numbered twenty-seven and accommodation was provided for ninety-three persons. Transfers were provided for eighteen families comprising fifty-three persons in order to make the best use of housing accommodation. Thus one hundred and forty-six persons were provided with housing accommodation during the year.

LICENSED VICTUALLING AND CLUBS

With few exceptions the standard of hygiene was maintained in the various premises and minor improvements and decorating carried out as necessary. The real interest shown by Brewery owners and the licencees helps considerably in this respect.

At the request of the Licensing Justices, a report on the forty-one premises in the Borough was submitted to the annual meeting. A progress report was prepared in March, regarding outstanding matters and the attention of the responsible persons was drawn to the remedial measures required. In October, a report on fifteen premises was prepared and submitted regarding conditions still in need of attention and this was followed by further communications to the various owners.

DISINFECTION

The steam disinfecter owned by the Council is in working order ready for use. The transportable container which fits our motor vehicles for the removal of infected bedding etc., is in good condition.

Disinfection was carried out in sixteen cases of infectious disease, and two cases of non-notifiable disease were dealt with on repayment. Library books which had been exposed to infectious disease and submitted to the Department were disinfected and returned to the Library.

Equipment is available for any normal emergency which may arise.



PESTS ACT, 1949.

Rats and Mice.

1st April 1958 to 31st March 1959	Owned by Local Authority (Non-domestic)	Dwelling houses (Local Authority and Private)	Other premises (Business and Industrial)	Total
Number of premises	12	2,676	838	3,526
Inspected as the result of :-				
(a) Notification	10	106	22	138
(b) Survey under the Act	5	326	60	391
(c) Otherwise	-	2	2	2
Total inspections & reinspections	173	806	239	1,218
Infested by mice	1	60	13	74
Infested by rats	9	46	9	64
Treated	10	106	22	138

The table above includes the result of ten block inspections which have covered a considerable part of the town area in addition to the routine complaint and infestation work.

The sewers were treated at half-yearly intervals and each manhole was inspected, pre-baited and poisoned. There does not appear to be any major sewer or surface infestation in the Borough, but there is still evidence of minor infestations, more particularly in the older parts of the town. It would appear that the constant work in this respect is responsible for the reasonably satisfactory condition.

There are three hundred and forty manholes known to exist and a record is kept in respect of each.

Infestation complaints were one hundred and thirty eight consisting of sixty-four rat and seventy-four infestations by mice. Each complaint was followed by action to secure abatement.

Disinfestation - Vermin.

Treatment was carried out in twenty-one business and domestic premises for infestation by fleas, beetles, moths and ants. Charges were made and advice was given where necessary.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Public Works Department, under the control of the Borough Surveyor, collect domestic and trade refuse with salvage at least once a week and more frequently as required. Tipping is carried out at Felin-y-mor and then covered to minimise nuisance. There are still numerous receptacles used for the storage of refuse awaiting collection and there is no doubt that proper covered refuse bins should be compulsory.



CESSPOOLS.

The public sewers are not available to fifty-one dwellings in the Borough, and whilst a few of these have dry or chemical disposal, the majority discharge into cesspools. These should be connected to the sewers or to small disposal plants wherever possible. The two largest groups comprise those in Antaron Avenue, wherein the 1957, "Report on Sewerage" by Messrs A.H. Waters and Partners, recommended an ejector plant to discharge into the existing sewer at Southgate. At Penyranchor a group of modern dwellings are on cesspools and constant difficulties through the lack of main drainage make consideration very urgent. The possibility of connecting these to the new harbour area, outfall scheme, should be considered.

The arrangement, whereby a cesspool emptier is hired from the Aberaeron Rural District Council, has proved most successful and there have been no cases of complaint since this efficient appliance was introduced.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Many of the public conveniences in the Borough are still without a water supply point which enables them to be thoroughly cleansed, especially the floors. The cleaning staff manage very creditably under great difficulty.

The provision of hot and cold water, soap, towels and shoe cleaning equipment, together with slipper or shower baths, should be considered in at least one convenience. Aberystwyth, is a terminus town for many road and rail travellers and it would provide an amenity during the summer months especially for holiday visitors.

Penparcau, is without public conveniences and the need for provision in that area is most urgent. The large playing fields at Plas Crug, and the smaller one at Neuadd Goffa, are both without proper sanitary accommodation for either sex and the need is obvious.

CAMPING AND CARAVAN SITES.

One recognised holiday camp is established within the Borough, and provided with the necessary sanitary accommodation consisting of flush toilets, ablutions, showers and refuse collection facilities. The management co-operates very willingly in the various problems which inevitably arise.

No private sites have been authorised elsewhere.

HEALTH CONFERENCE, ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS.

Blackpool, 15th to 19th September, 1958.

The Chief Public Health Inspector attended as your representative and following the opening of the Conference, the undermentioned papers were used as a basis for discussion.

"Housing - Looking to the Future" by the General Council of the Association.

"Food Hygiene in the Open Air" introduced by L.Mair Esq., M.R.S.H., Chief Public Health Inspector, City and County of Newcastle Upon Tyne.

"Slaughterhouses" introduced by W.E.Cooke Esq., M.R.S.H., Chief Public Health Inspector, Bingley Urban District Council.

"Clean Air Act, 1956 - Promise and Performance" introduced by A.C.Saword, D.P.A., F.R.S.H., Chief Public Health Inspector, Kingston-upon-Hull, County Borough Council.

"The Measurement of Smoke from Industrial Boilers" introduced by T.F.Hurley Esq., O.B.E., B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E., F.Inst.F., Chief Research Engineer, Fuel Research Station, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

"Public Health Implications of the Increasing Use of Radioactive Materials" introduced by B.A.J.Lister Esq., Ph.D.M.Sc., Health Physics Division, United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority.

"Health Education in Practice" introduced by G.W.Herrick Esq., D.P.A., Chief Public Health Inspector, Metropolitan Borough of Fulham.

"Noise and Vibration: Their Analysis and Control for Human Comfort" introduced by G.G.Parfitt Esq., A.R.C.S., D.I.C., Ph.D., Physics Department, Imperial College, London.

This concludes my report.

I am Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,


Chief Public Health Inspector.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Aberystwyth.

Tel: Aberystwyth 479.

